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Letter, Dudley Brainard to Virginia Brainard [June 28, 1949]

Dudley Brainard

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June 28, 1949

Dear Virginia:

Here is a brief synopsis of Minnesota history which I think is very bad. The contents of Perkins and Brainard would be much better as a basis. I am working on a California outline which I hope promises to be much better. We have some most interesting letters from Ned for you to read Sunday. Dr. Sherwood at Kuwauis told of meeting you at Fairhaven. You made a great impression there. This afternoon Bonnie goes to get her marriage license

Love
Daddy

SYNOPSIS OF MINNESOTA HISTORY

- I. In the beginning Minnesota divided into 3 parts:-
 1. Pine forest of the North & East.
 2. Hardwood forest of the Center & East.
 3. Prairie region of the South & West.
- II. Many wild animals live in Minnesota,
 1. Some,--elk, buffalo and antelope have disappeared in Minn.
 2. Others,--bear, deer, and moose, etc. are living in the forests/.
- III. Divided in three river basins. Over half the state drains into the Mississippi and the Gulf of Mexico but a third is drained by the Red River of the North and Hudson Bay and a part of the Arrowhead into Lake Superior and the Atlantic Ocean.
- IV. Minnesota has more lakes than any other state.
- V. At first there were Indians: Two tribes,--Chippewa and the Sioux. Birch bark ~~causes~~ feud between the two tribes.

A Stone Age people--lived in villages--tepees of bark & skins. Hunting & fishing--bows and arrows.
- VI. European Explorers in Minnesota:
 1. An exploring party of Swedes & Norwegians in 1362.
 2. The French--Radisson came first and wrote a book.--then Duluth.
 3. Father Hennepin who discovered Falls of St. Anthony & wrote a book.
 4. Le Sueur who thought he found a copper mine.
 5. The short lived ^{3 years} Mission of St. Michael the Archangel. (first in Minn.)- *broken up by Fox Indian raids.*
 6. LaVerendrye, the largest of all the expeditions.

Purpose: To trade for furs, explore--claim land for France, & Christianize the Indians.
 3. British: Captain Jonathan Carver who visited Carver's Cave.
- VII. Fur trade controlled by two great Companies. *in 1670*
 1. Hudson's Bay Co.--chartered by Charles I. Red River Valley, Ft. MC.Garry--owned by Lord Selkirk who brought first agri. settlers into Pembina area in 1811.
 2. Northwest Company--headquarters Montreal. *main fur* ~~manifest~~ in Minn. at Grand Portage--also Leech Lake, Sandy Lake, Fon du Lac, Etc. Greatest prosperity of fur trade 1780-1800.

United States

VIII.1.Pike -1805-6

2. Founding Ft. Snelling 1819 by Col. Leavenworth.
 3. 1st. U. S. Indian Agency established by Maj. Lawrence Talliaferro
 4. Amer. Fur Co. Henry H. Sibley--other prominent traders, Joseph Renville at Lacqui Parle, Alexander, Faribault at Mendota, Louis Provencelle at Traverse des Sioux.
 5. Missionaries: Pond Bros.--try to teach Indians to farm.
- IX. Settlers arrive--New England & New York.--Germany--Scandinavia. Indians sell land--Treaty of Traverse des Sioux in 1851. Territory of Minn. established 1849--Ramsey first Gov. appointed by Pres. Taylor. *47000 people in Territory in 1849* Attempt to move the Capital to St. Peter. Great immigration 1851-1858. Admitted as a State in 1858, 150,000 people. Sibley deserves credit both for establishing the territory and the state. Sibley elected first Gov. of state.
- X. Lumber Industry *develops first in St. Croix Valley* *Franklin Steele built first commercial sawmill*--most of the virgin forest harvested 1890-1910. Wheat growing very important.
- XI. Minn. in Civil War--sent over 22,000 men.
- XII. Indian War of 1862 450 settlers killed.
- XIII. Steamboat era--Culmination in 1862
- XIV. Railroads built beginning in 1862. Early settlements not on railroads become ghost towns--example Niniger.
- XV. Rapid growth during 70's & 80's. Minneapolis and St. Paul become large cities. Discovery of iron on Vermilion and Mesabi & Cuyuna Ranges--building the iron range railroads and ore docks--ore boats on the Great Lakes.
- XVI. Minnesota in First World War--furnished 118,000 men. War enthusiasts--saving wheat, gasoline--Liberty Loans. War fought in France--last 1½ yrs.
- XVII. Minn. in 2nd. World War--furnished over 315,000 men. War industry at New Brighton, etc. War lasted 4 yrs.--fought all over the World.
- XVIII. Celebration of Territorial Centennial.